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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,371	11/20/2003	Daniel Williams Fry JR.	18124 (AT20958-1035)	9531

7590 03/07/2005  
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EXAMINER

PRASAD, CHANDRIKA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/718,371	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FRY ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Chandrika Prasad	<b>Art Unit</b> 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendments*

1. The reply filed 2/16/05 consists of amendments to claim 1, changes in the drawings and specification and remarks related to rejection of claims. The claims are not allowable as explained below.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9, 11-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (5451158).

Lin (Figures 1-5) shows a header assembly 20 having an insulative housing 22 with a plurality of walls defining an interior cavity with a plurality of contacts 32, 32' within the cavity and a plurality of alignment ribs (elongated elevated portions) defined by a plurality of channels 50 extending on an exterior surface wherein the contacts abut the rib to ensure coplanarity of the contacts. The housing has longitudinal side walls and lateral side walls. The ribs extend parallel to one of the longitudinal and lateral side walls. The contacts extend in a plurality of rows and are preloaded against the ribs. Some of the contacts 32, 32' have a first length and some of the contacts have a second length wherein the first length is greater than the second length. The contacts are staggered. Lin further teaches the use of solder block and reflow soldering for

surface mounting the contacts. The contacts have rounded ends. The solder tails of the contacts are flexed about the alignment ribs. The method of assembling the contacts in the housing is inherent.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (5451158).

Lin shows all the features of these claims except the alignment ribs having crowned surfaces. Such a feature is well known in the art of electrical connectors. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide such a feature because this would provide a smooth surface is assembling the contacts in the openings between the ribs.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Huang et al. (20050009379, 6827588), Pope et al. (6135781), Yagi et al. (5772474), Consoli et al. (5697799), Grabbe et al. (5667393), Walkup et al. (5281160) and Dola et al. (4762500).

Art Unit: 2839

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 2/16/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant has not provided any specific meaning or definition for a rib, hence a common dictionary definition (an elongated elevated portion) was used. Lin does show such ribs on an outer surface of the housing and the housing has a plurality of cavities defined by a plurality of walls. Other references cited but not used also show alignment ribs on an outer surface of a housing with a plurality of walls defining a plurality of cavities.

***Contact Information***

8. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad whose telephone number is (571) 272-2099.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor can be reached at (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.



**Chandrika Prasad**  
Primary examiner  
March 03, 2005